

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 PPT-01 SCA-01 /091 W

----- 019656

R 051000Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7889

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

FBIS AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 7909

UNCLAS HONG KONG 13223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VN:PINS:CPAS:CGEN

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO VIETNAM

1. ACCORDING TO NOV. 4 PRESS REPORTS, THE DRV IS NOW PERMITTING TOURIST TRAVEL TO NORTH VIETNAM. THE REPORTS INDICATE THAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PACKAGE TOURS ARRANGED THRU THE HONG KONG-BASED SPEEDTRAVEL AGENCY.

2. A SPEEDTRAVEL REP. HAS INFORMED US THAT ABOUT SIX AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE CONTACTED THE AGENCY DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS. THE NEWSMEN, MOSTLY FREELANCERS, WERE INFORMED BY THE AGENCY THAT THEY HAVE ONLY A "50/50" CHANCE OF GETTING DRV VISAS AND THAT AUTHORIZATIO  
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EVEN IF FORTHCOMING WOULD TAKE SOME TIME. (SPEEDTRAVEL SAYS THEY NOW PROCESS DRV VISAS REQUESTS THRU VIENTIANE IN ABOUT 10-14 DAYS FOR PERSONS HOLDING OTHER THAN US, FILIPINO, ROC OR SPANISH PASSPORTS

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SPEEDTRAVEL ALSO INFORMED THOSE JOURNALISTS INQUIRING ABOUT FILMING IN NORTH VIETNAM THAT ONLY B/W FILM WOULD BE ALLOWED AND THAT ALL FILMS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED IN HANOI PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

SPEEDTRAVEL SAYS NO AMERICANS HAVE AS YET APPLIED FOR DRV VISAS.

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3. SPEEDTRAVEL HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH HANOI SINCE EARLY THIS

YEAR. DRVN APPROVAL WAS RECEIVED, HOWEVER, ONLY JUST AFTER THE FALL OF SAIGON. THE AGENCY REPORTS A BRISK BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY THRU ITS PARIS BRANCH OFFICE. FRENCH VISITORS SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY ENTHRALLED BY THE SONNE ET LUMIERE EXHIBIT OF THE BATTLE OF DIEN BIEN PHU AT THE ARMY MUSEUM IN HANOI.

4. THE TEN AND THIRTEEN DAY TOURS INCLUDE VISITS TO THE LAOTIAN AND DRV CITIES OF VIETTIANE, LUANG PRABANG, KOUANG-SY, HANOI, HAIPHONG, HAO BINH, DOSON, HONG GAI AND HA LONG.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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